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Letter dated 28 April 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on legislative elections in Indonesia, issued on 26 April 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Richard **Ryan**
Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 28 April 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on legislative elections in Indonesia issued on 26 April 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union has followed the legislative elections in Indonesia for several representative bodies on 5 April last with great interest. The elections were among the largest ever organized anywhere in the world and the organization was a monumental logistical task for the National Electoral Commission as more than 650 million ballot papers needed to be prepared and distributed and voting for four representative bodies took place at almost 600,000 voting stations.

Although the official results of the elections will not be known for some time, the European Union takes the opportunity to congratulate the people and the Government of Indonesia on the generally peaceful and competitive way in which the pre-election process and polling have taken place, and hopes that the coming presidential elections can be conducted in the same positive manner.

More than 200 independent European Union observers were stationed in the country to follow the election process. The European Union expresses its great appreciation for the work of the European Union Election Observation Mission, led by Glyn Ford, which provided a comprehensive statement on the electoral process in Indonesia. The European Union, through the continued efforts of the European Union Election Observation Mission, will continue to follow the coming presidential elections with great attention as well.

The European Union notes with great satisfaction that the elections have taken place in a positive spirit. Overall the elections appear to have been a success, although the preparations were marked by shortcomings and delays, especially in the production and distribution of ballot papers, and on election day there were a few delays and postponements in isolated parts of the country. The process appears to have been conducted peacefully, except for some incidents reported from Aceh. Regretfully, it was not possible for observers to observe fully in the province, so that information on Aceh's elections remains scarce. The European Union expresses the hope that during the coming presidential elections its observers will be able to observe fully the election process.

The acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.